FLOSSING DEVICE WITH ADVANCING AND TENSIONING MECHANISM

Abstract of the Disclosure

A hand-held dental flossing device has a housing with a handle that may be held with one hand. A dental floss supply is located in the housing and a winding gear is rotatably mounted to the housing. A free end of the dental floss strand from the floss supply is threaded through the housing into a floss exit arm of the housing where it passes through an exit opening to an exposed area of the flossing arm. Used dental floss returns into the housing, via a receiving opening, where it passes through an optional disinfectant supply before or as it wound onto the winding gear. The housing has an opening where the winding gear extends therefrom and is accessible to the fingers of the user's hand. The winding gear has teeth that cooperate with a stopper to form a one-way ratchet gear. A floss-tensioning button is located in the housing and has first and second ends extending from the housing. The first and second ends are accessible to the user's hand holding the handle of the flossing device. When in a first position, the tensioning button allows the floss strand to be readily advanced by winding the gear while in a second position, the floss strand is relatively taut so that winding the gear will even further tension the strand. The device may have an F-shaped cross-section, enlarged, funnel-shaped openings for the floss to exit and enter the housing, and a disinfectant supply for disinfecting used floss. The device may be reloadable with floss.

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